• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Chairman Whitsett Bares Treaty Dangers

The following statement setting forth some of the fundamental reasons why the proposed water treaty with Mexico should not be ratified by the United States Senate has been issued by W. P. Whitsett, Chairman, Board of Directors, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and a member of the Colorado River Board of California.

Since the veil of secrecy was lifted from the unfair, revolutionary and dangerous provisions of the proposed water treaty with Mexico a few months ago, official representatives of vitally affected areas and interested citizens, in increasing numbers, have become familiar with the general terms of the document, and opposition to the treaty has mounted accordingly. It is now pending before the Foreign Relations

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Chairman W. P. Whitsett

Many Outside Areas Seeking More Water

From Southern California communities now outside the Metropolitan Water District there has come to the Water Problems Committee of the Board of Directors during the past 60 days an increasing number of petitions and inquiries bearing on the subject of Colorado River Aqueduct water.

Along the coast line many industrial and residential areas find their local underground basins being constantly and dangerously depleted. At the same time, in zones where well water is being pumped from below sea level, the steady encroachment of salt water from the ocean threatens to destroy priceless underground reservoirs. Coupled with the recession of local underground wa-

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Three Americans who saw the Colorado River as a great natural resource to be developed by American energy, skill and money for the benefit of American communities: Major John W. Powell (left) made the first successful boat voyage through the treacherous rapids of the Grand Canyon while engaged in his historic engineering survey of this river and its upper tributaries in 1869 and 1871; President Theodore Roosevelt (center) was a pioneer advocate of Colorado River flood control and development for the benefit of United States communities; William Lee Manly (right), a '49er and one of the first white men to attempt to navigate the uncharted waters of the Green and Colorado rivers.

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District Tax Rate Authorized by Board

Approving the continuation of a policy of keeping Colorado River Aqueduct operating costs at the lowest possible level, the Board of Directors on August 18 set the District's tax rate for 1944-45 at 48 cents per $100 of assessed valuation, the same rate that has been in effect during the past year.

Of the 48-cent rate, only 5 cents is required to meet the District's operation and maintenance charges, it was pointed out by Chairman W. P. Whitsett. Forty-three cents of the rate will be used to meet interest and redemption charges on bonds sold to finance construction of the 400-mile aqueduct system.

Cities and areas comprising the Metropolitan Water District are not required to meet their assessments by a tax levy, but may, if they choose, pay their charges in whole or in part from local water revenues, it was explained by Chairman Whitsett. Glendale and Pasadena are paying their entire assessments from their local water and power departments' earnings, and without any tax levy. Burbank and Compton, two other District cities, are paying about one-half their annual assessments from local water revenues and one-half from taxes, Chairman Whitsett stated.

Completed in its initial development in the summer of 1941, the giant Colorado River Aqueduct was placed in operation only a few months before America entered the war. Water thus made available to the cities constituting the Metropolitan Water District has given the assurance of an abundant and dependable water supply to the great war industries located in this territory. A number of military establishments on the coastal plain and on the desert likewise are being supplied by the aqueduct.

Action of the District's Board of Directors in authorizing the 1944-45 rate was taken on recommendation of its Finance Committee.

Treaty Dangers

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Committee of the United States Senate.

Here are a few of the basic reasons why the proposed treaty should not be ratified by the Senate.

1. Regardless of the normal variations of the water available in the river, the treaty "guarantees" to Mexico 1,500,000 acre feet of Colorado River water annually. This is twice the amount that Mexico ever did use prior to regulation of the river by Boulder Dam and twice the amount that could be put to use without such regulation.

2. The Boulder Canyon Project Act and the Statutory Compact between the United States and the State of California, made in 1929, wherein California agreed to limit her use of Colorado River water, specifically provide that water stored by the Boulder Project shall be used "exclusively in the United States." California has proceeded on the theory that the United States will keep its compact commitments to California.

3. The treaty gives to Mexico a priority to the waters of the Colorado River and a dominant right which will override all water rights in the United States and to which, in the event of a shortage, communities in the United States must yield. All of the water so guaranteed to Mexico originates in the United States. None of it originates in Mexico.

4. The proposed treaty eventually will make it impossible for the United States, during periods of low flow, to fulfill long standing contracts to deliver water for irrigation and domestic purposes to states and communities within the United States. Investments aggregating five hundred million dollars have been made and vast works constructed in California in reliance upon such outstanding contracts.

5. The proposed treaty will subject large areas of land in the United States to a serious and permanent flood menace. This will be brought about by construction of a dam or weir across the Colorado River at a point below the California boundary and above the southerly boundary of Arizona. The treaty authorizes such a dam or weir and, in fact, requires that it be built. The effect will be to raise water in the river above the level of great agricultural areas in the United States and subject those lands to the hazard of devastating floods. At present such a structure is forbidden by treaty and by a court order obtained by Arizona interests.

6. The proposed treaty takes away from United States communities and gives, in perpetuity, to Mexico valuable power resources now available for development on the All-American Canal system situated within the United States. It sets up the machinery and creates the power and authority in the International Boundary Commissioner to acquire the property for and construct and operate, in perpetuity, national and international projects for hydroelectric power production, and it excludes Congress from the right of exercising any control over rates, fields of service or use of the funds derived from such power sales.

7. The proposed treaty creates and perpetuates a new type of bureaucratic agency, to be known as the International Boundary and Water Commission, composed of one commissioner from the United States and one from Mexico. This commission is vested, in perpetuity, with extraordinary, broad, regulatory, judicial and administrative powers on the river, including power to commit the United States to great expenditures for hydroelectric and other works on the river. As set out in the treaty, such powers are not subject to any sort of review or control by the Congress.

8. The proposed treaty sets up the United States Boundary and Water Commissioner as an operating agency, with the right to control and operate the entire Colorado River system and all works thereon, if he deems such control incidental to fulfillment of treaty obligations. This power is to be exercised without regard to established rights of states and communities within the United States and is intended, and does, form the basis of nationalization of all works on the river, regardless of their location with respect to the boundary. The treaty makes the United States Commissioner responsible only to the Department of State. The treaty does not retain in the Congress of the United States the right to review or pass upon the plans for or the expense of projects on the river. Under the terms of the treaty Congress will be bound to appropriate any funds required for the construction of works agreed upon by the United States Commissioner. Failure to make such appropriations will constitute a breach of treaty.

• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in August, 1944, covering work done in July, 1944.

Operation and Maintenance

General—District units N-5 and N-6 in the Boulder power plant were operated 99.2 per cent of the time in July. Unit N-4 was substituted for two periods of 6-¼ hours each early in the month, one period for each generating unit. The maximum power demand of Basic Magnesium, Inc. was 133,650 kw. Total energy delivered to B. M. I. was 94,232,-363 kwhr, a daily average of 3,039,754 kwhr compared with 3,040,750 in June.

Parker Dam—Lake Havasu was held at close to full reservoir throughout the month. Average discharge of the Colorado River at Parker Dam in July was 16,882 cubic feet per second, compared with 16,553 c. f. s. in June.

Parker Power Plant—The Parker power system was in parallel with the District system continuously except for a 13-minute period on July 1. Energy received from the Parker system amounted to 2,404,000 kwhr and energy delivered to the Parker system totaled 8,291,000 kwhr.

Main Aqueduct—The aqueduct was patrolled, and on patrol trips miscellaneous maintenance jobs were performed such as fence repair, removal of debris from canal and siphon ends, and similar work. The reservoirs were inspected and water samples were taken for analysis.

Pumping Plants—The pumping plants were operated intermittently to replenish storage in Gene and Copper Basin reservoirs, and to supply water to District camps. Normal maintenance work was performed at all camps, on the transmission and telephone systems, and on patrol roads.

Distribution System—Available water in storage at Lake Mathews on July 31 was 71,369 acre feet, and water surface was at elevation 1,339.43 feet. This is a drop in water level of 2.56 feet and decrease in storage of 4,324 acre feet during the month. At the Softening and Filtration Plant water was softened from an average hardness of 369 p.p.m. to 102 p.p.m. The average rate of flow for the month was 50.9 c.f.s. or 32,-890,000 gallons per day, compared with 25,590,000 g.p.d. in June. Regular analyses were continued of water samples from the main aqueduct and distribution system. Patrol of the distribution pipe lines and reservoirs was continued and normal maintenance work was performed. The Laguna Beach area of the Coastal M. W. D., Santa Ana, and Santa Monica are now taking practically their entire water supply from the District system; and other constituent areas, with the exception of Anaheim, Glendale and San Marino, are drawing from the District as necessary. Anaheim has requested delivery early in August.

Office Engineering and Design—Specifications No. 362 were completed and notice inviting bids was issued for salt storage basin No. 3 at the water softening plant. Details were finished and purchase requisitions were issued for reinforcing steel and other District furnished materials for the basin. Data were compiled for completing a questionnaire submitted by the Federal Works Agency relative to post-war construction projects.

Hydrographic—Problems of the Mexican water treaty continued to require chief attention during the month. Regular and special meetings of the Colorado River Board of California were attended, also a meeting at Reno, Nevada, on July 20 and 21, of the Colorado River Basin Committee of 16. At Lake Mead, available water in storage increased 674,000 acre feet during July to 24,623,000 acre feet. The water level in the reservoir rose 4.69 feet to elevation 1,199.53 feet. This is 21.87 feet below the spillway. The average discharge of the Colorado at Boulder Dam in July was 18,153 cubic feet per second, compared with 18,458 in June.

Employment—During the month of July, 10 classified positions were filled, 5 of which were temporary employments. There were also recorded 9 terminations, 54 changes of status, 10 employment contracts and 59 interviews.

Right of Way—A reverse lease of the Goetz Ranch in the San Jacinto tunnel area was negotiated, and a temporary easement was obtained for work on the waste water line.

Purchasing—There were issued during July 188 purchase orders and 3 agreements, totaling approximately $8,980.00. Carload forwardings consisted of 60 cars of sodium chloride and 3 cars of other chemicals to the softening plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to $588.55. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was $277,149.38.

Use of Aqueduct Water Increasing

Softened and filtered Colorado River Aqueduct water was delivered during the month of August to twelve of the fourteen cities and areas within the Metropolitan Water District. The District areas being supplied with aqueduct water, in varying amounts, were Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Coastal Municipal Water District, Compton, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Ana, Santa Monica and Torrance.

Four cities within the District obtained their entire water supply during the month from the aqueduct. They were Anaheim, Laguna Beach, Santa Ana and Santa Monica. The other cities used the softened and filtered aqueduct water to supplement local supplies and, in the instance of Los Angeles, local and Owens River Aqueduct supplies.

To meet the requirements of District cities, aqueduct water was passing through the Softening and Filtration Plant at an average rate of about 75 cubic feet per second during a large part of the month. This is about one-half the present capacity of the plant, and registers a considerable increase over the same period of 1943.

In addition to the aqueduct water served to areas within the District, there were considerable quantities delivered to certain military establishments in Southern California and to the Army hospital at Spadra.

Areas Seek Water

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ter levels is a marked increase in the demand for water to meet growing domestic and industrial requirements.

Interest in obtaining Colorado River Aqueduct water is not confined to the coast line territory. From northern Orange county, from communities in the foothill district of eastern Los Angeles county, and in a large district in western San Bernardino county studies are now under way looking to the obtaining of supplemental water supplies to make up deficiencies in local sources.

Many of the areas in need of additional water include incorporated cities and adjacent unincorporated territory. This has given rise to the necessity of organizing overlying local water districts of types eligible under the state law for annexation to the Metropolitan Water District.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Timekeeper and messenger in the District's Los Angeles offices is Mrs. Lucille Fay King. Her husband, Seaman 2/c Herman L. King, is attending Basic Engineering School at Camp Lawrence, San Diego. And then, there is Linda Lou, aged 22 months, Mrs. King's daughter, and, as you might guess, as pretty as a picture.

You can't beat the Falkenburgs, but occasionally you can tie them. It now develops that Gene Falkenburg, Assistant Superintendent of Pumping Plants, is tied with Foreman Joe E. Brown for the pie eating championship of Gene Camp. The contest, it is reported, took place at a pot-luck picnic at Gene, attended by aqueducters and their families, and featured by sixteen pies of many varieties, all home baked and luscious. The number of pieces put away by Gene and Joe was also reported, but the figure is so fantastic that the NEWS editor refuses to pass it on.

Well remembered by many an aqueduct veteran is Magnus Hjalmarson, General Foreman and Construction Superintendent on a number of schedules on the Big Job, including Berdoo, Fargo and Fan Hill. For the past five years he has been in charge of heavy construction work on the Panama Canal and in Puerto Rico. He stopped by the District's offices a few minutes during August en route to another job in distant parts with Morrison-Knudsen Co.

On August 5, at Pomona, Nadene Harvey became Mrs. James L. Cherry, wife of Sergeant Cherry of the U. S. Army Medical Corps. When she returned to her duties as General Clerk in the Accounting Division a couple of weeks later, she was greeted with wishes for happiness by all of her associates in the District offices. And there were several beautiful gifts, too. Mrs. Cherry has been with the District since February, 1933. Her husband only recently returned to the states after two years of service at Bethel and Seward, Alaska. He is presently stationed at Santa Barbara.

To the District offices there came some time back a copy of The Stow-Away, published weekly by U. S. Naval forces operating in the Alaskan area. Editorial Advisor on the publication is Chief Yeoman Fred T. Fauble. During aqueduct construction days, Fred served as General Clerk in the field and in the Labor Employment Office, and is known to hundreds of old-timers on the job.

Sergeant Margaret E. Swank, WAC. While on furlough from an Army camp in New Mexico, she visited former District associates briefly during August. She went on military leave from the job of Secretary to the Executive Secretary of the District Board in April, 1942. She's one of the District's finest now in the country's military service.

Rufus S. Fee, Carpenter's Mate, First Class, United States Navy.

After 22 months of overseas service with the world's greatest navy, Rufus Fee, Carpenter's Mate 1st Class, returned to Los Angeles early in August. In August 1942, Rufus put aside his duties as Field Secretary for the Board of Directors and took military leave to enlist in the Navy. Two months later he was on the high seas and heading for a port in Africa. Most of the time since then he has been engaged in shore duties in African ports.

While back in these parts, Rufus visited briefly with aqueducters in the Los Angeles headquarters. He had made his return trip to Southern California all the way from an African port in three days, including stopovers in Washington, D. C., and New York. He didn't come on a boat. Following an all too short vacation with Mrs. Fee and his friends, he set forth for New York for assignment to unspecified duties.

Word comes that William J. (Bill) Black, who was employed as Chainman, Rodman, Instrumentman and Inspector with the Distribution Division from 1934 to 1941, is now with the Army Air Forces in the Hawaiian Islands. He has asked to be remembered to his former associates on the aqueduct. His address is 7th Weather Squadron, A. P. O. 953, c/o Postmaster, San Francisco.